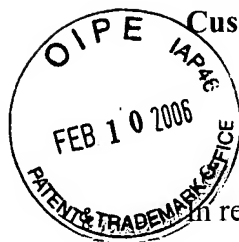


IFW

DOCKET NO. STMI07-02357

PATENT

Customer No. 23990



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: : JOAQUIN TORRES ET AL.

Serial No. : 10/781,565

Filed : February 18, 2004

For : PROCESS FOR FABRICATING AN INTEGRATED
ELECTRONIC CIRCUIT THAT INCORPORATES AIR
GAPS

Group No. : 2811

Examiner : Cuong Quang Nguyen

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

Sir:

The undersigned hereby certifies that the following documents:

1. Response to Restriction Requirement; and
2. A postcard receipt.

relating to the above application, were deposited as "First Class Mail" with the United States Postal Service, addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 3, 2006.

Date: 2/3/06

Date: Feb. 3, 2006

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Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated September 26, 2005, the Applicants traversed the restriction requirement and elected the claims of Group II (Claims 1-12). The claims of Group I (Claims 13-17) were withdrawn from consideration without prejudice. The Examiner has now made another restriction requirement, requiring Applicants to elect between (as defined by the Examiner) Embodiment 1 described in Figures 1a-1f, Embodiment 2 described in Figures 2a-2f, and Embodiment 3 described in Figures 3a-3b.

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated January 3, 2006, the Applicants respectfully elect to prosecute Embodiment 1 described in Figures 1a-1f with traverse. Embodiment 1 corresponds to claims 1-6 and 12.

Applicant respectfully notes that this election is drawn according to the species identified by the Examiner, and at the Examiner's express requirement, and no admission is made thereby. Applicant also notes that independent claim 1 is generic to all remaining claims and all embodiments identified by the examiner. At such as claim 1 is allowed, Applicant anticipates that the Examiner will consider all of the originally-elected claims for allowance.

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.